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## Newsletter

**Number 01**

**10 February 2017**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Early Thanks

... to those working so hard to ensure a successful Gala Day

... to those who are supporting our junior beach trips and those who have signed up for our senior camp. These events could not happen without your generous support.

### People of the week

... Ryan Johnson for showing initiative and being so helpful to other children in his class.

... Those children who have gone to such extraordinary lengths to make our new and international students feel so welcome.

### Best wishes

... to our senior school and its parent support team for what will truly be an amazing camp experience next week.

### Term calendar ... *More to follow as dates come to hand!*

13 Feb	Senior school camp to Auckland
13 Feb	Middle school swimming trials
13 Feb	Rooms 2,4 and 6 beach trip
20 Feb	Senior school swimming trials
21 Feb	Senior options programme starts
24 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
25 Feb	School Country Fair
27/28 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
2 March	Junior swimming sports (years 1 to 3)
3 March	Middle and senior swimming sports (years 4 to 8)
7 March	Interschool Swimming Sports (pp 9.3)
15 March	Year 7 and 8 tennis doubles
23 March	Kids Lit Quiz
24 March	Year 7 and 8 vaccinations
13 April	Final day of term 1

### Newsletter

We hope that the newsletter keeps you well informed of upcoming events. In the past we have often repeated items just to ensure these are not missed. The down side is that this makes the newsletter a longer read. From today we will repeat only the most critical information and include an index of other important items from the previous week(s) so that you can access these via our school website (newsletter tab). Please advise if you do not receive your newsletter via email and we will set this up. We will also continue to use our Matarau School facebook page to keep you informed.

**Items in last week's newsletter (Please access via our website)**

- Term dates 2017
- Protocols for advising daily absences
- School contributions and Events fees
- Stationery requirements
- Sunhat policy
- Learning Support Programmes
- Pool Keys
- Bus times
- Pick up of children
- End of day buses
- Medical Forms and contact details
- Optimal conditions for learning
- Communication with the school ... dealing with issues
- Digital Devices
- Advise us of changes to your residential and contact details
- Kapa haka survey

**Country Fair - 25 February 2017**

***Please support the Country Fair to be held here  
at Matarau School on 10-2pm Saturday 25 February.***

***Plenty of fun activities are planned, games, competitions, stalls, food etc  
Please let extended family and neighbours know that this is an event  
they shouldn't miss. Much more to follow!***

**Can you help our intrepid gala team in any of the following ways ?**

- if able to help with the erection of tents on the Friday before, and dismantling on the Saturday afternoon, please contact Kevin
- If you are willing to share a turn on the spit or at a BBQ on the day please email our school office.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS DIRECTLY .. OR VIA  
THE OFFICE EMAIL ... ALL OFFERS VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

- *our juniors (rooms 1 and 2) would be so grateful for the donation of any non-perishable food items for hampers. So please please reach a little deeper into the pantry and see if there is something you can send along to school ... (to be dropped to rooms 1 or 2 or the office please)*
- *Room 4 (Miss Bevin) would love offers of any good quality clothes and offers to help with sorting, pricing and setting up of items.*
- *Room 11 (Miss Blundell) would love offers of help with their café / bake sale*
- *Room 10 (Mrs Gunson) would love to hear from people able to help with supervision at the water slide*
- *Room 6 (Mrs Marvin) would love donations of good quality books for their book stall .. please drop these to room 6*
- *Room 8 (Mrs Lunn) is keen for offers from parents able to supervise in the swimming pool area.*
- *Mrs Robertson would also be very keen to hear from people able to send baking to school closer to the date.*

***... and if willing to help out wherever you are needed (we will make sure it is not for the whole day) please email the school attention Jenny Wiegersma.***

***Thank you so much in advance. MORE TO FOLLOW!***

### Cellphones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office.



### Homework

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### School Sponsors sought for 2016

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor. Our sponsors provide an important link between the school and its community. While grateful for the financial contributions of sponsors our desire to foster an on-going and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and your business is our paramount consideration.

Where relevant, a sponsor will be given the opportunity to quote on school work through the Ministry of Education. This is just one of the benefits of being a sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact Mary Finlayson 4370441 or 0274525398.

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 27 and 28 February - **online booking will open shortly (more to follow).**

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

**Early Buses** - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 27 and 28 February because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

### Term Headlice Inspection

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak (possible date 21 Feb). We are keen for offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Helen here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### National Standards Results

Our National Standards results are available for anyone interested in viewing these. If you would like a copy please drop by to see Kevin or flick him an email..

### Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **Monday (13.2)** please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.



*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. If you do assist in classrooms you will be asked to read over some guidelines and suggestions prior to starting. **It is absolutely critical that parent helpers respect the privacy of children and their families by ensuring that any observations or impressions are not discussed outside of the school.**

Please give Kevin a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

### Communications ... worth a second read

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. Where an issue involves a dispute between children please remember that the school is required by law to apply "natural justice" principles to every investigation, this involves hearing all sides and gathering good information. Try to avoid settling on conclusions in advance of a thorough investigation by the school as incidents always look different when placed in their wider context.

In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher (**not social media please**), but I am always available down the track, or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude, ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. **although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week.** Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

### Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme

Printed material is available in the office foyer for those keen to know more about this programme and how it will benefit our students. Just ask.

### After School Care

The board has been approached to see if an ASC programme might be viable. Please take the time to complete a very brief survey which can be found via the following link ...

This survey closes 20 February.

### Finally

I was reading something this week I thought you might find interesting. Apparently researchers have found that, on average, it takes 5 positive interactions to negate one negative interaction. Makes you realise how important it is to measure your words and get it right first time round.

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

**Sumpter Baughen**  
Chartered Accountants

## Community Notices

**2017 Chinese Spring Festival Variety Show** – 18<sup>th</sup> February, Forum North, Celebrate the year of the Rooster; Dinner & Show \$10. Limited tickets. Tickets from Noodle Canteen, Vine St or Happy Dragon Kamo.

**Northland Futsal Academy**, Aged 8-15 yrs, boys & Girls, Held at WBHS or KHS Contact Christian, 021 246 7328 for days / times / cost.

**AgriKids** – Northern Region Final. Kamo High School, 18 March 2017. Enter a team for a fun day. Must be 8+ years old. Contact Chevon Horsford on 021 0235 7844 or checkout [agrikidsnz.co.nz](http://agrikidsnz.co.nz)

**Ruatangata Market:** on tomorrow (Saturday 11) at the Ruatangata Hall, 1180 Pipiwai road, from 8am till 11am. A fun event suitable for the whole family. Lots of stalls and plenty of parking.

**WANTED HOUSE TO RENT** in Matarau / Ruatangata area for professional couple with 1 intermediate aged child. Please phone 0204 137 6787

## School Lunches



**Mondays** - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

**Wednesdays** - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** - \$4.00 : Hot Mince Pie, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. See order form attached to this week's newsletter if you want to bulk order for term 4.

In the case of a child's absence from school and instructions to the contrary, we are unable to guarantee a refund or provide a lunch on a subsequent week.

## Matarau School Country Fair

10am - 2pm

25<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Any items donated for  
White Elephant, Plants, Clothing or Book Stalls  
please bring to the Hall, and  
all donations for the Silent Auctions or the Raffles please  
bring to the office from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Please be note we cannot sell e-waste, cots, car seats etc, please don't donate these types of items. Any queries on suitability of items please contact Jenny on 021 729 536



10-AM - 2-PM

# MATARAU SCHOOL *Country Fair*



Kids Games  
**SATURDAY** Stalls Digger Rides  
**25TH FEBRUARY** Raffles Fun  
**EFTPOS AVAILABLE**  
**Food**  
Waterslide White Elephant Stall  
Pony Rides Polaris bike rides

PRIZE DONATIONS FROM

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